

## Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Alexander Melville Bell, October 17, 1897, with transcript

Letter written by Alexander Graham Bell to his Father. October 17, 1897. My dear Papa:

Your telegram received this morning assuring us that your marriage will not take place before the first of January has relieved my mind of a great anxiety. I know that you cannot appreciate our feelings in this matter — but I assure you we appreciate the love that has prompted you to acquiesce in our request. Mabel has expressed very clearly our reasons for making it and I can only add that this year has memories of its own with which it must always be associated in our minds. Let the New Year bring the new life and who shall object? Not we certainly. We shall rejoice in your joy and give cordial welcome to the stranger in your home. Love and best wishes to you both.

And now pray tell us—

Who IS Mrs. Shibley? How did you meet her? When? Where? Everything in fact.

Reply immediately — or sooner if possible — or we'll go up to Harrowsmith ourselves — by telegraph — to see her. The beautiful photograph of seven years ago has quite won our heart. A sweeter — gentler — nobler looking woman I have never seen. How does she look now? We are waiting anxiously for the promised photograph of to-day.

Mabel and I wrote to Mrs. Shibley tonight — so that she might have no anxiety concerning her reception by us.

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What are your movements? And can we not connect somewhere? You know how welcome you would be here — if you cared to come.

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Are you going to stay up in Perth or Harrowsmith all the time? Will you be there if I join you in the middle of November.

I leave here Friday November 5 for Halifax — where I give a public Address concerning Parents' Educational Association. On Saturday night (November 6) I sail for Boston by Steamer Halifax. I will be at the Parker House on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday (November 10) when I give a public address upon Francis Green — at the Horace Mann School.

My plan was to return home by Montreal — calling on Daisy at Utica.

Now I think I might as well run up to Ontario and pay my respects to Mrs. Shibley before returning here.

These are my plans. What are yours? Can we connect anywhere?

Your loving son, Alexander Graham Bell. Prof. A. M. Bell, care of Dr. Kennedy, Perth — Ontario.